

I oppose the proposed FCC rule changes weakening rules for broadcast station ownership.

The airwaves belong to the people of the United States. The FCC licenses the use of our valuable assets to assure that such use is in the public interest. Such interest includes a broad and diverse perspective of views and opinions which is the life blood of our democracy.

Commissioner Powell favors unrestraining market forces to provide balance in media ownership. But market forces don't protect democracy.

Market forces have already demonstrated what happens in the media market even under the current rules. There is a concentration of ownership that reduces local content in favor of syndicated programming controlled from remote sites. The only thing local in some local stations is the physical broadcasting facility; the antenna and transmitter.

I absolutely agree with FCC Commissioner Copps when he said the following at the USC Media Ownership Forum in April:

"let's start with the premise that this is the people's property we are dealing with. We're talking about public airwaves and how they should be utilized to advance the interests of our citizens. Broadcasting is a business, but it's a very special business with large public purposes."

I also support the call for more independently produced programming requirements for broadcast media.

It's regulatory oversight from people like Commissioner Copps incorporating the people's interest that we need regulating broadcast station ownership and not pure market forces.

Again, I oppose weakening rules for broadcast station ownership.

Thank you.